

## ABSTRACT

The invention relates to an automated item dispensing system that is capable of dispensing biological products. The system preferably comprises:

- 5 (a) at least one dispenser (preferably a temperature controlled dispenser) capable of dispensing an item; (b) at least one local controller for controlling and monitoring a respective dispenser; (c) a central controller for receiving and processing electronic item orders from at least one user; and (d) a communication network for providing communication between said central controller, said local  
10 controller(s), said user(s) and at least one supplier that is capable of stocking and restocking items in the dispenser. The dispenser preferably comprises: (i) at least one rotatable carousel; (ii) an access hatch aligned with each carousel for accessing an interior of an item cell located within the carousel; and (iii) a motor for rotating the carousel.